

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, Claim 25 has been amended to more specifically set forth the instant invention. Claims 26-36 and 39-41 remain unchanged in the application. Claims 25-36 and 39-41 remain in the application. Claims 1-24 and 44-46 are withdrawn because of an election made by the applicants. Claims 37-38 and 42-43 are cancelled because they were allowed in the parent case.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 25-31, 33-36, and 39-41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. 6,171,131 B1). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, the applicants have amended Claim 25 to more specifically set forth the instant invention.

Claim 25

The applicants respectfully point out that Claim 25 is an independent claim from which all other claims depend. Claim 25 claims a circuit board holder 10 which includes circuit board retainers 21, 22, 33, and 34 for holding a circuit board 28 (See FIG. 2). In particular, in Claim 25 retainers 21 and 22 are configured to slideably receive and hold circuit board 28 in a first direction (See Page 6, Lines 1-8). Further, in Claim 25 retainers 33 and 34 are configured to retain and hold circuit board 28 a second direction which is transverse to the first direction (See Page 6, Lines 1-8). Additionally, in Claim 25 circuit board holder 10 is configured to hold more than one circuit board 28 (See Page 6, Lines 12-18).

The applicants respectfully point out that Lee teaches an electrical connector assembly (See FIG. 1, Elements 1 and 2 of the Lee application) and does not teach a circuit board holder as asserted by the Examiner. The applicants believe that the assembly disclosed by Lee is designed to connect a flat cable to a circuit board (See Column 2, Lines 11-14). The applicants believe that the assembly disclosed by Lee does not hold or provide support for a circuit board or multiple circuit boards. In fact, the assembly is not even in physical contact with a circuit board.

The assembly disclosed by Lee is in physical contact with a connector which is connected to the circuit board (See FIGS. 1-4 and Column 3, Lines 8-13). The applicants believe that the assembly only holds a flat cable to a connector connected to a circuit board and the assembly does not hold the circuit board or prevent movement of the circuit board in more than one direction as disclosed by the applicants.

As mentioned above, however, the applicants have amended Claim 25 to more specifically set forth the instant invention. In particular, Claim 25 has been amended to add the limitation that the circuit board retainers (See FIG. 1, Elements 21 and 22) extend longitudinally along the walls (Elements 16 and 18, respectively) to slideably receive the circuit board. The applicants believe that Lee does not include this limitation and, consequently, Lee does not teach every limitation included in Claim 25.

Thus, the applicants believe that the Examiner's Section 102 rejection of Claim 25 has been overcome and that Claim 25 is in condition for allowance.

The applicants respectfully point out that Claims 26-31, 33-36, and 39-41 depend from Claim 25. Claims 26-31, 33-36, and 39-41 remain unchanged, but the applicants believe that Claims 26-31, 33-36, and 39-41 should be allowed because of the amendment to Claim 25 as discussed above. Thus, the applicants believe that 26-31, 33-36, and 39-41 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Lai et al. (U.S. 5,969,946). *The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.*

The applicants respectfully point out that Claim 32 depends from Claim 25. Claim 32 remains unchanged. However, the applicants believe that Claim 32 should be allowed because of the amendment to Claim 25. The applicants respectfully point out that if an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious (See MPEP 2143.03). Thus, the applicants believe that the amendment to Claim 25 overcomes the Examiners rejection and, consequently, Claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

Thus, the applicants believe that all of Claims 25-36 and 39-41 are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectively requested.

SUMMARY

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 25-36 and 39-41 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 25 has been amended to more specifically set forth the instant invention. Claims 26-36 and 39-41 remain unchanged in the application. The applied references do not disclose, teach, or suggest forming a circuit board holder as disclosed by the applicants and, therefore, cannot anticipate or make obvious the present invention. In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully requested,

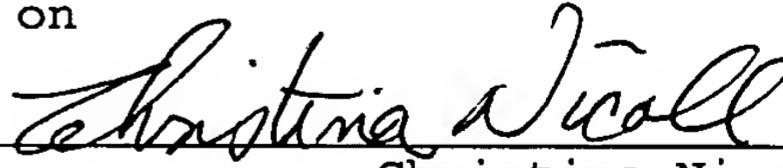

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